The quarterly breakup of the targets is 10% for the first quarter, 25% each for second and third quarters and 40% for the fourth quarter.

**Thrift and self help groups of women in Andhra Pradesh**

1293. DR. D. VENKATESWAR RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of rural women in Andhra Pradesh have emerged into thrift and self-help groups during 1992-95 to help themselves to fight against the evils of poverty malnutrition, ill health, sanitation, illiteracy;

(b) if so, whether 40,000 groups spread over 10,000 habitations have mobilized Rs. 50.00 crores;

(c) whether the State Government has decided to convert these groups in DWCRA and has urged the Central Government to provide assistance of Rs. 50.00 crores as central share to cover 50,000 groups during the year 1995-96;

(d) if so, whether the Central Government have agreed to provide the same; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) yes, Sir, as reported by the State Government.

(c) Yes, Sir. The State Government have decided to convert these groups into DWCRA Groups and had initially requested for a Central assistance of Rs. 50.00 crores. Subsequently, however, the State Government requested Government of India to provide Central funds for 25,000 group.

(d) and (e) The Central assistance for 15,000 groups was released last year. For the remaining 10,000 groups Central assistance has been released during current year.

**Cheating By Private LPG Companies**

1294. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many private liquified petroleum gas (LPG) companies are cheating consumers and defrauding the investors;

(b) if so, the names of such companies; and

(c) what action Government have taken so far or propose to take against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) (a) to (c) In February, 1993, Government allowed private agencies, to import and market Kerosene and LPG by setting up/using their own infrastructure and distribution net-work, at market determined prices under their own terms. Some reports have come to the notice of the Government about malpractices by some of the paralel marketers of Kerosene and LPG. The State and Union Territory Governments have been advised to ban collection of deposit by parallel marketeers without their making adequate arrangements for supply of these products. Besides, they have also been advised to verify the genuineness, antecedents and capabilities of persons/agencies processing to take up activities under the parallel marketing system and to take appropriate action against persons who have been found indulging in fraudulent and unfair trade practices. Public have also been suitably advised and warned through press releses that they must find out the antecedents, genuineness and capabilities of concerned parallel marketeers before entering into any transaction with them. MRTP Commission also takes action against persons/ firm/companies indulging in unfair trade practices.

Further, in order to protect their interests and to educate the prospective customers and distributors etc. about the genuineness and capabilities of the parallel marketeers, a system of compulsory rating of parallel marketeers for evaluation of their capabilities, infrastructure net-work and readiness to carry out professed business and deliver goods and services promised, has been introduced. Under the new rating system, it has been made compulsory for every parallel marketeers of LPG and Kerosene to obtain a rating certificate before they commence any activity of parallel marketing and to publish the rating certificate in all advertisements and correspondence made by them.